

1911.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

KINGSCLERE RURAL DISTRICT.

TOWER HILL HOUSE,

KINGSCLERE,

NEWBURY.

TO THE KINGSCLERE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

30th January, 1912.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Report for the past year 1911. Your District in no way seems to alter, being entirely rural, consisting of sixteen parishes, divided into two areas for guardian duties, but in future records Dr. Newsholme, of the Local Government Board, does not require separate records, but prefers grouping the whole area, and consequently the tables are altered, but quite as explanatory and of much interest,

Your soil varies from the lightest to very heavy, and the sub-soil chalk, gravel, or clay. There are various gravel pits, chalk pits, and brick yards.

There are numerous residential families, but the chief occupation of the workers is agricultural, and what few factories there are, are for the making of requirements in the course of agriculture, and in no way tend to injure health. Poor Law relief is much reducing, and most of your aged now receive the old age pension. With the exception of your Isolation Hospital for infectious diseases and your Parish Infirmary, there is no other sick institution in your area, but Reading, Winchester, and Newbury Hospitals are considerably used.

From the 1911 Census your population has increased by 342 on the past ten years' estimate, but in reality an increase of 291 persons in your Kingsclere area, and 118 in your Highclere area, but Parish returns are not yet available. There is also an addition of two hundred houses or separate occupiers. House accommodation is fairly adequate. One mansion has been occupied during the year. Small new tenements only average about twelve to fourteen annually. Cottages are more comfortable than in the past, but there are a few small landlords who consider anything is good enough, and one has to keep a sharp eye on them. Close quarters in cottages in some of the hamlets no doubt there is, but as the cottages are clean and many of the children out in the day time either at school or at work, the word overcrowding is not applicable, and they all have good gardens and wells of water. There is a decided dearth of cottages, more especially in your Kingsclere division. Parents with large families have difficulty in finding a home,

Overcrowding.

Five instances were brought to my notice—two serious ones—but they were all abated without legal proceedings. A few gipsy vans frequent the district, but recently I have had no complaints concerning them.

Under the Housing and Town Planning Act your Inspector of Nuisances visited 319 residences, and reported to me on the defective ones. I made a visit to each of these together with him, after due notice had been served on either the owner or occupier. All complied with notices with the exception of two, and they on receiving final notice caused no further trouble. The water supply is mainly from wells, and on the whole good. Streams we have many of which don't get much pollution. Two old wells were condemned after water had been analysed by the County Analyst. Fresh supplies were at once provided. Personally I examined ten samples of water in connection with new houses, all of which I passed good. I think now milk supply is ample and of good quality generally, and there are several additional who send to London. One prosecution took place for adulteration with water.

Concerning *food*, I have facilities for frequent observation. The slaughter-houses are clean, but it appeals to me considerably that animals are slaughtered in such close proximity to others, even on some occasions I am sure they must see what is taking place. Bakehouses and Dairies I systematically inspect, together with your Inspector, and am quite satisfied with all of them. They are regularly whitewashed twice annually.

Drainage.

With the exception of Kingsclere, with a partial system of drainage on to its own sewage farm, the district relies on

individual schemes for disposal in the larger residences, but cottages and small houses chiefly use pails and ashes or cess-pits, and bury in their own gardens. Last year I recommended in Kingsclere, where there are a number of small residences with tiny gardens, a weekly scavenger's cart should be provided for the collection of all materials, but at present my Council are opposed to it under the heading of expense, but ultimately this must come or else a larger supply of allotments. Kingsclere Sewage Scheme has been enlarged by taking in the western portion of the village, and gradually houses are connecting to it, also the police station has been added to it. In January a serious block occurred in the main, but after considerable work at the last two manholes the trouble was got over, and more frequent flushing has taken place since.

The Thames Conservancy keep a very stringent look out for stream pollution. Kingsclere sewage farm is not well situated, and during the heavy rains in December was somewhat water-logged. Considering the water fall in this month was 8.24 inches, one cannot be surprised, and with the exceptionally dry summer and drought, yet our rainfall for the year was above our average, being 29.70. There was no difficulty in supplying water to the villages during the summer drought. House and all other refuse is disposed of on the individual property by burying chiefly, but in a few instances burning.

All nuisances called to my notice were attended to immediately, and all abated without prosecution.

I am not aware of any fresh Bye-laws being added during the year.

The eighteen schools, with the exception of Tadley, which is Board, are Public Elementary, and all up to standard of requirements. Tadley, with its different regulations, causes me annoyance. Although a year has elapsed since I reported for alterations, these are still not completely carried out—even the long urine trough exists, so I am now compelled to take some active measures.

In January I made an inspection and special report of all schools as regards their general sanitary condition, &c.

For some short time Kingsclere Infants' Schools was closed in the commencement of February owing to Diphtheria. On this occasion I took swabs from all suspected children and enforced isolation. The original case died practically before I received the notice, and several children declared to have the specific bacillus present I kept under observation, treating them personally, and no further trouble arose. Since that time this Infant Department has been considerably enlarged. The end of March whooping cough was much in evidence at Crux Easton, and this school I closed for three weeks. With these exceptions the year has progressed normally.

Infectious Diseases.

In all 25 cases were reported during the year, twelve of erysipelas, mostly amongst persons of mature age and treated at their homes. One enteric, imported from Reading, which unfortunately died, and I was quite unable to trace its origin.

Scarlet Fever.

Four. One in a school boy, and contracted probably in the train. One doubtful, which proved not to be. A third

from direct inoculation whilst shopping in Newbury, and the fourth, in a child, could in no way be accounted for.

Diphtheria.

Eight. One case from Kingsclere Infants' School, but traced to improper drainage at its home. Another child contracted the disease from this one whilst at school. Two further cases in children were treated at their homes. Then during the dry spell in August and September four further cases developed, and each attributed to the want of cleanliness and shortage of water. All infectious cases notified I inspect at once, and in due course the rooms, bedding, and other articles are disinfected by your Inspector. Your Isolation Hospital, with its resident trained fever matron, had but three patients admitted during the year.

Bacteriological work is all performed by the Clinical Research Association.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Not a case was reported from Poor Law nor from Institutions, but now that notification is general, cases are sure to crop up. One of the cases notified in 1910 still has moderate health.

The building of a County Sanatorium is under consideration and will be a heavy expense, but is it necessary? I am inclined to think much good could be done by dividing the County into areas, and in each area selecting the most suitable Parochial Institution in that area, and converting it into a Sanatorium, allotting its present inmates to the other Institutions in the said area. This could be done with

advantage at once. Take Whitechurch, for instance, for this district, well situated, well isolated, and agricultural land all around it.

Factories and Workshops.

Work places we have 54, but none carrying on injurious trades. Three defects were found and each remedied on request.

A Local Government Board inquiry was held and particulars taken of the general working and arrangements of the Union, also the Board sent an Official to make an inspection of the Kingsclere Sewage Farm. I think the scavenger's cart for Kingsclere would be a great improvement, and if further allotments can be obtained they would considerably assist many to get rid of effete matter.

Many improvements have been effected since the adoption of model bye-laws. Poliomyelitis and Acute Cerebro-spinal Fever have been added to the list of notifiable diseases.

Lunacy I am inclined to think is not on the increase, but the County Council are on the way to building a further large Asylum some seven miles off on the Basingstoke road.

The Women's Imperial Health Association of Great Britain should have the support of every Medical Officer of Health. At present they have not been able to introduce free urinettes at Railway Stations.

Free shelters for tuberculosis cases I hope to introduce before long—to be the property of the District Council and under proper supervision.

Your Parish Infirmary is adequate and renders excellent service.

Five births occurred in it and seven deaths, all among very aged.

The Sanitary Inspector has done a considerable amount of good work, as will be seen from his table No. V. And now let me make some comments on my own tables.

No. I. Although your population has increased, yet, your birth and death rate are stationary. No less than twenty old people died in your Highclere division, against sixteen in the Kingsclere, one of much greater size. Four deaths of residents without were registered, and two of non-residents within, but these two later and one death without I had not received notice of when my statistics were completed, so there is a discrepancy of one.

No. II. Twenty-five infectious cases notified, mostly in your Kingsclere division, and at all ages.

No. III. Of the ninety deaths, 36 occurred in persons over 65 years of age, and there is no high rate of death from any disease.

No. IV. Infantile mortality—this is satisfactory—of the six dying within a month of birth, five were due to premature birth. All the deaths—12—were those of legitimate children.

Births numbered 181, or 20.47 per thousand of population.

I also enclose a copy of my report to the Secretary of State, and remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

REG. MAPLES.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1911 and previous Years.

YEAR	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
								Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages	
	Un-corrected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District	of Residents not registered in the District	Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate
1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1906		216	25.2	128	13.88			17	78.8	128	13.88
1907		182	21.41	110	12.94			16	87.9	110	12.94
1908		191	22.35	90	11.6			18	94.3	90	11.6
1909		200	23.6	92	11.7			7	33.6	92	10.07
1910		175	20.58	91	10.6			13	61.5	91	10.06
1911		181	20.47	87	9.83	0	3	12	66.33	90	10.17

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 44,463. Total population at all ages, 8,842. Number of inhabited houses, 2,151. Average number of persons per house, 4.02.

TABLE II.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1911.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED								TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY						Total cases removed to Hospital			
	At all Ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	K	H								
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	8	...	...	6	1	1	...	...	7	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Erysipelas	12	...	...	2	1	1	4	4	11	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	4	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	25	...	1	10	4	2	4	4	22	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	...

Isolation Hospital :—In Ecc hinswell Parish. Available beds, 13. Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 3.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the year 1911.

CAUSES OF DEATH	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District
	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	
All Causes Certified--All Uncertified--Nil										
Enteric Fever	1		...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Measles	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and croup	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	4	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Rheumatic Fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	...
Bronchitis	6	2	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	...
Pneumonia (all other forms)	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Heart Disease	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	10	1
Other Defined Diseases	44	3	...	...	...	...	1	3	37	6
	90	12	1	1	3	4	3	13	53	7

TABLE IV.—INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1911.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH				Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes	Certified	All Uncertified	Nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Small Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Chicken Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Scarlet Fever .. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Diphtheria and Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{Diarrhoea ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{Enteritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
{Abdominal Tuberculosis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{Congenital Malformations ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{Premature Birth ... ..	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	5	1	...	...	...	...
{Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at birth ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laryngitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other causes ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
				6	...	...	...	6	4	1	...	1	12

Nett Births in the year : Legitimate, 170. Illegitimate, 11.

Nett Deaths in the year of Legitimate Infants, 12. Illegitimate Infants, Nil.

TABLE V.

Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the year 1911.

		Number of		Abatement Notices		Nuisances Abated after Notices by		Nuisance Remaining Unabated
		Inspections and Observations made	Defects found	Informal by Inspector	Formal by Authority	Inspector	Authority	
Dwelling-houses and Schools	Foul Conditions ...	8	8	8	...	8	...	...
	Structural Defects ...	9	9	9	...	9	...	...
	Over-crowding ...	5	5	5	...	5	...	...
	Unfit for Habitation ...	2	2	2	2	2	...	2
	Lodging-houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Dairies & Milkshops ...	72	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Cowsheds ...	26	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Bakehouses ...	34	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Slaughter-houses ...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Canal Boats ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
House Drainage	Ashpits and Privies ...	23	23	23	2	23	2	...
	Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	11	11	11	3	11	3	...
	Water-closets ...	14	2	2	...	2	...	...
	Defective Traps ...	21	21	21	...	21	...	...
	No Disconnection ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Faults ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Water Supply ...	17	17	17	...	17	...	...
	Pigsties ...	13	13	13	1	13	1	...
	Animals improperly kept ...	1	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Offensive Trades ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Smoke Nuisances ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Nuisances ...	19	19	19	1	19	1	...
	Totals ...	281	131	131	9	130	7	3

Complaints received ..	...	13
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...	...	...
Samples of Food taken for Analysis ...	...	...
" " found Adulterated ...	...	...
" of Water taken for Analysis ...	...	12
" Condemned as Unfit for Use ...	...	2

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or Destroyed ...	...
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	15
Schools ditto ditto ...	...
Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease ...	...
Convictions ditto ditto ...	...
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or Things ...	...
Convictions ditto ditto ...	...

Inspected under Under Town Planning Act 319.

TABLE VI.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Factories Inspected	...	4
Workshops „	...	Nil.
Workplaces „	...	50
		—
Total	...	54
		—
Defects found ...	...	3
„ remedied ...	...	3
Number of prosecutions ...	...	Nil.
„ „ written notices ...	...	3

